

**USAID/Burundi**

**Annual Report**

**FY 2005**

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## **Burundi**

### **Performance:**

Since its independence from Belgium in 1962, Burundi has had minority governments, episodes of civil war and explosions of violence. Ethnically-based political parties have continually competed for power with a significant number of violent outbreaks. Since the assassination of the first democratically elected Hutu president in 1993, conflict has resulted in the deaths of over 300,000 people and over a million more are internally displaced or refugees in Tanzania. The three-year transition that began on November 1, 2001 was scheduled to end on October 31, 2004, but the parties were unable to agree on the sharing of power that the elections should produce. The transition has been extended until April 30, 2005 in order to hold the elections mandated by the Arusha Peace Accord. The Forces for Defense of Democracy (FDD), the largest Hutu rebel group, joined the government in November 2003 and the year that followed, marked by less violence, has seen intense negotiations. The National Liberation Front (FNL) continues to fight Government troops and the FDD in Bujumbura rural. Incidents like the August 2004 massacre of 153 Banyamulenge Tutsi refugees destabilize the fragile peace, but the transition government is preparing for democratic elections which could set Burundi on the path to peace and stability.

Any sustainable peace will have to address the lack of economic opportunities. There is urgent need for job creation and long-term economic growth. Sustainable peace will depend on a shift in attitudes and behaviors of the political elites who have controlled and benefited from the limited economic resources. The history of Burundi has been characterized by access to power through military coups; therefore support to the disarmament, demobilization, reinsertion and reintegration process and to the security sector reforms is critical to prevent destabilization of institutions that might follow from the democratic process. This process should be strengthened by dialogue between ordinary citizens and government. Burundi must hold individuals accountable for crimes, both past and present. A continuation of the culture of impunity is a serious threat to the peace process.

The civil war devastated the country's economy, making it one of the poorest countries in the world, ranking 171 out of 175 on the 2003 United Nations Development Program Human Development Index. In 2003 the gross national product (GNP) per capita fell to \$87-- only 53% of the 1999 GNP. More than 58% of the population is estimated to live below the poverty threshold and 69% of the population suffers from malnutrition. For 2002, UNICEF reported life expectancy at birth had dropped to 41 years, from 54 years in 1992. Infant mortality was 114 per 1,000, under 5 mortality was 190 per 1,000, and maternal mortality was 1,000 per 100,000. Forty-five percent of children under 5 years are moderately or severely underweight. UNICEF reported that in 2003 25,000 Burundians died from AIDS, 390,000 Burundians were living with AIDS and 237,000 children under the age of 14 were orphaned by AIDS. The 2004 UNAIDS Report on the Global AIDS Epidemic reported a prevalence rate of 6% in Burundi at the end of 2003.

The conflict in Burundi has led to serious violations of children's rights, including recruitment of 7,000 children into armed groups; rape; child prostitution; exploitation of 645,000 working children; orphaning of 620,000 children; exposure to landmines; and permanent internal displacement of 281,000 people, and another 120,000 people displaced temporarily each month. Sexual and gender-based violence has also increased as a result of the war.

Population growth, estimated at 3%, is putting increasing pressure on limited land resources with no corresponding increase in non-farm employment. Fifty-five percent of the population is under the age of 18 years. The 650,000 Burundian refugees living in Tanzania will return to Burundi if it stabilizes and will have to be reintegrated into the society and the economy.

**U.S. Interests and Goals:** The U.S. government priority in Burundi is to help the Burundian people achieve a just and durable solution to the civil war that has wracked the country since 1993. In order to help Burundi achieve viable economic prosperity and security, the U.S. strategy for Burundi is to: encourage the Government of Burundi to implement budget transparency, and financial accountability; encourage growth of the private sector and job creation through creation of an investment friendly environment; and poverty reduction through improved worker productivity, especially by mitigating the effects of HIV/AIDS and malaria, and through promoting community based livelihood security. The U.S. is also promoting democratic values through free and fair elections and respect for human rights.

**Donor Relations:** The major donors have varying approaches to assisting the Government of Burundi. Belgium, France and the European Union provide direct budgetary support and/or debt relief. The U.S. provides no direct financial support to the Government due to 508 legislation constraints. The EU is the biggest multi-lateral donor, providing approximately \$146 million for budgetary support, rehabilitation of infrastructure and rural development, support to the transition and good governance as well as humanitarian assistance to refugees and war affected vulnerable populations. The World Bank provides \$78 million for economic rehabilitation, public works for job creation, health and HIV/AIDS and Demilitarization, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR). Belgium provides \$32 million and France \$33 million to support the government budget, rule of law, health and education. Germany supports DDR, conflict mitigation and HIV/AIDS.

Donor round tables since December 2000 have pledged more than \$1.1 billion pledged, but the government reports only 66% has been disbursed. Donor coordination takes place at all levels, especially in such key sectors as DRR and support for the elections. Donor coordination for humanitarian assistance is quite good but for development assistance remains at the level of information sharing.

**Challenges:** Despite progress made on the security front by the signing of a global-cease fire agreement between the Government of Burundi and the main rebel group, National Council for the Defense of the Democracy-Forces for the Defense of the Democracy (CNDD-FDD) in October 2003, security concerns remain following the refusal of the other important group, the Palipehutu-FNL to join the peace process. Fighting between the government forces allied to the CNDD-FDD forces continued to cause population displacements, looting and unofficial taxation in the Province of Bujumbura rural throughout 2004.

Ninety percent of the population practices subsistence farming, placing an ever increasing demand on scarce arable land. Sustainable peace will depend in large part on the rolling back the state's monopolistic control of the economy and facilitating a shift in attitudes and behaviors of the political elites that see control of the mechanisms of government as the means to control and benefit from limited economic resources. The continued belief in the state as the sole provider of employment and advancement has blinded many to the opportunities offered by the potential for growth of the private sector and reform of the country's outdated, corrupt and inefficient economic institutions.

Drought, floods and crop diseases, such as the mosaic virus attacking the cassava crop, challenged USAID partners' efforts to increase household food security. WFP and other partners, using USAID Food for Peace commodities, were able to respond to such emergency situations through targeted distribution of food aid.

HIV/AIDS is a major, growing challenge for Burundi, which is among those countries highly affected by the epidemic. The most recent estimates show an HIV/AIDS prevalence of 11% in urban areas and 7.5% in rural areas, and up to 20% in the capital-city Bujumbura. 230,000 children were orphaned by AIDS and 25,000 deaths were due to AIDS in 2003.

**Key Achievements:** FY 2004 was marked by significant progress in the Burundi peace process, resulting from combined efforts of national organizations and the international community, including the U.S. Embassy in Burundi. Access to most areas improved, allowing USAID to reach the needy and to better implement relief and development activities. USAID had notable achievements in all of its objectives as it consolidated some ongoing activities under the new strategy, designed new activities and realigned the implementation arrangements for the food security programs. Access to Burundi prohibited the

development of a performance monitoring plan however the results reported have been verified to the maximum extent possible.

**Good Governance Enhanced:** USAID's programs focused on electoral processes with impressive results. USAID produced 711 radio programs focused on issues related to the peace process that included 105 roundtable discussions with more than 6,300 participants. Communities in 11 provinces were trained to resolve their own conflicts and became less vulnerable to political manipulation. Trained leaders were able to dispel rumors of genocide. Community-based reconciliation efforts were strengthened through a nationally broadcasted radio series previewing a "Heroes Summit" which brought heroes from other countries together with local heroes and celebrated their acts of courage. The event received wide, popular media coverage. USAID supported human rights and equal access to justice by providing legal services to indigents and by training 90 community level paralegals.

**Food Security Enhanced:** USAID provided \$31.5 million in food and non-food assistance to an average of 770,000 people each month. Thirty thousand children received supplemental feeding and recovered from severe malnutrition. Schools for vocational training enrolled 870 students. USAID assisted 19,000 farm families to obtain improved seeds for planting, improve their agricultural techniques, form farmer associations, build pest free storage for seeds, plant 260,000 fruit trees, and learn small livestock rearing techniques to improve the nutritional status of their families. Farmers participated in environmental protection activities by planting 3.5 million trees, reforesting 100 hectares of hillside, planting 470 kilometers of erosion control earthworks, and developing 30 hectares of marshland.

**Access to Basic Social Services Improved:** USAID supported 25 targeted health centers in two provinces which improved availability of essential health services. USAID contributed to the UNICEF Roll Back Malaria program that included distribution of 335,500 insecticide treated nets for children under five and pregnant women, and provided a new malaria treatment to 2.2 million people.

## **Results Framework**

**695-005 Foundation for a peaceful transition in Burundi established**

**695-006 Good Governance Enhanced**

I.R. 6.1 Transitional institutions and peace process strengthened

I.R. 6.2 Civil Society participation increased

**695-007 Food Security Enhanced**

**SO Level Indicator(s):**

Number of households using improved ag. technologies

I.R. 7.1 Vulnerable groups receive effectively targeted assistance

I.R. 7.2 Increased opportunities provided for productive livelihoods

I.R. 7.3 Sustainable natural resources management practices adopted

**695-008 Access to Basic Services Improved**

**SO Level Indicator(s):**

ITN coverage rate

Number of people served by USAID funded HIV/AIDS prevention, treatment, care and support services

I.R. 8.1 Increased availability of client-oriented health services

I.R. 8.2 HIV/AIDS & infectious disease prevention, care and support programs expanded

I.R. 8.3 Safe water and sanitation more widely available